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Chapter 3- Student Organizations, pp. 93-118

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LEGEND & LORE

Jefferson Medical College

C H A P T E R

3

— Student —
Organizations

Student Medical Societies

by Colin M. Roberts (JMC, '95)

In the 1930 *Clinic* Professor Hobart A. Hare wrote a history of student societies at Jefferson. The beloved Professor of Therapeutics was nearing the end of a 40-year career at the College. In the first year of his tenure, 1891, he had helped begin the first of what would be a long and vibrant tradition of student activity. His well written account, which follows, reflects his serious interest in student life.

"In the Fall of 1891, when there was little opportunity for students at the Jefferson Medical College to meet together, except in the lecture rooms, and long before any student fraternities were founded among Jefferson students, Dr. Hobart A. Hare suggested that an undergraduate medical society might be formed. The object was to provide opportunity to discuss medical and surgical topics in order that the members might have the training of debating various topics, thereby preparing them for entering actively into the proceedings of organizations which they might join after graduation.

"Dr. Hare asked Dr. E. Quinn Thornton to get together a limited group of students whom he thought would be eligible as "founders," and this group when it met became the first undergraduate student body in the institution (Figure 1). The idea at once appealed to the students of the College in general, and after a few weeks during which the advantages of the plan became more obvious, a second organization took place to which was attached the name of Prof. W. W. Keen, then in the full flower of his notable career.

"These were the only societies founded in 1891, but many groups have come into existence since that time. Sometimes the death, or the resignation of the individual whose name was attached to that of a Society has resulted in a change of title, or new societies have been formed under the patronage of newly elected members of the Faculty.

"The fact that so many groups have been formed and that the organizations have increased in popu-

larity and usefulness is indicative of their value. The existence of these groups has helped materially in producing a sense of solidarity among the members of the various classes. In the former years a student might pass through the course and graduate, without having any intimate association with more than one or two others and thereby was deprived of that attractive aspect of student life called camaraderie. Often such friendships last through life and recall student days with pleasant memories. It is to be hoped that the custom of having these student societies may continue for it brings the members of the Faculty and the student members into closer association."

By 1930, Dr. Hare had lived to see his efforts to promote "camaraderie" swell from an initial two in 1891 to nearly twenty student societies, with 118 of the 140 graduating seniors of that year claiming membership in at least one.

From the charter chapters of the Hare Medical Society and the W.W. Keen Surgical Society (Figure 2), groups sprang up around nearly every medical department of student interest and faculty expertise. The majority claimed a "patron saint" among the faculty who, in lending his sponsorship to the society, claimed rights to preside over an annual banquet, the culmination of a successful year of meetings, smokers and speeches. At monthly gatherings, the student members would convene to present papers to each other, review events in the field, discuss recent lectures by the faculty of their favored department, and, on special occasions, hear invited guests from the medical world present work, discuss techniques, and offer advice for aspiring residents (Figure 3).

Student societies grew and changed with the college through the 20th century. As Hare mentions, old societies changed their names to honor new faculty sponsors as departments changed chairs and faculty physicians died or retired. Similarly, new societies emerged as new departments

Fig. 1. Founding members of Jefferson's first student society, the 1892 Hare Medical Society. Dr. Hare, seated at center, was 29 years of age when the group formed.

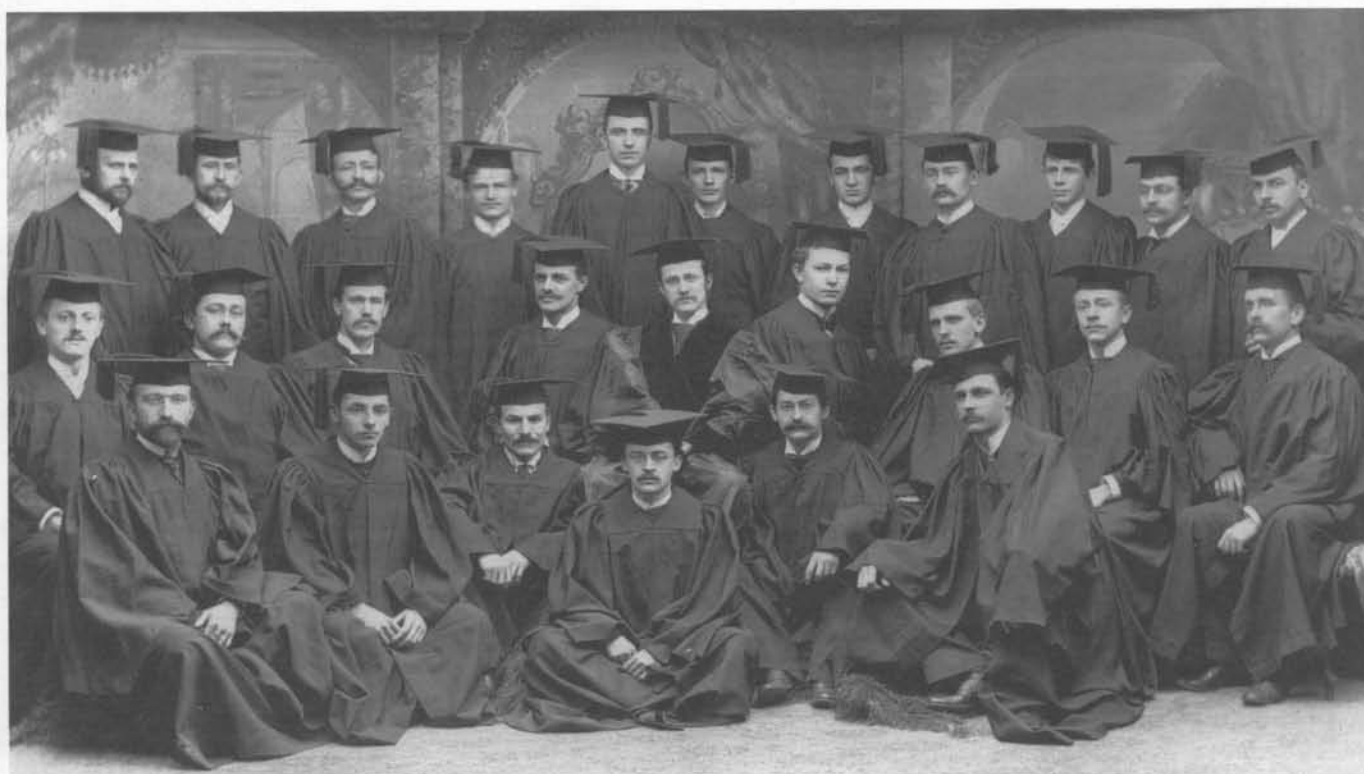


Fig. 2. The founding members of the W.W. Keen Surgical Society, assembled with their patron (in top hat) on the steps of St. Luke and the Epiphany, 1892. John Chalmers DaCosta is at front, far left.

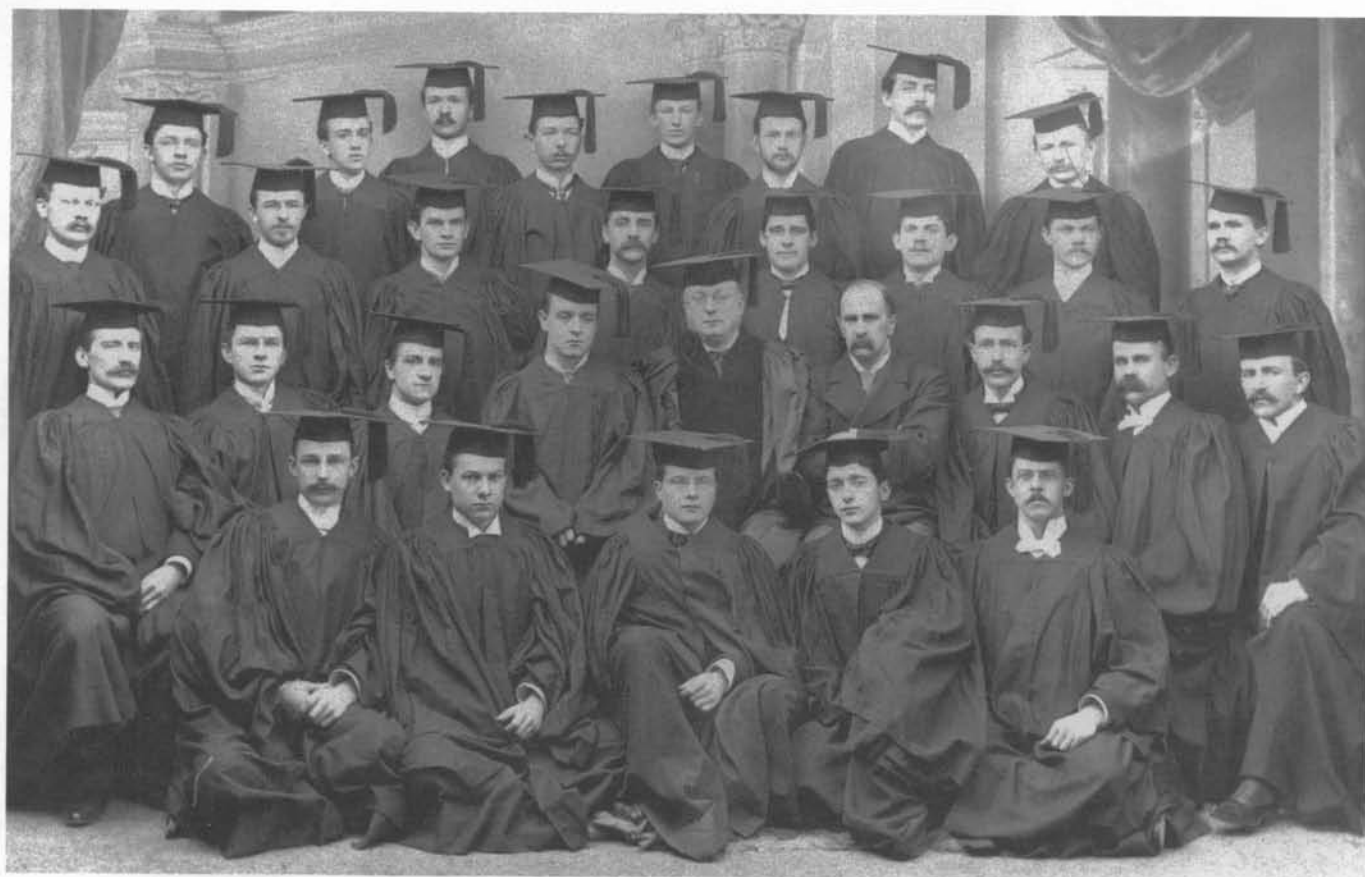


Fig. 3. The 1895-96 chapter of the James C. Wilson Medical Society. The group, which existed from 1892 to 1921, is pictured here with distinguished guest Sir William Osler.

and specialties evolved. A variety of societies also formed to coordinate other aspects of student life, and explore areas aside from purely medical matters. Students formed religious groups, history groups, ethnic societies, and a number of forums for the discussion of medical ethics and the consideration of the changing role of the physician in society. Lastly, a few unique societies stated clearly in their charter constitutions that they existed solely to honor their members as students and scholars, and to celebrate in order that "the lighter side of life should not be completely subjugated to the rigors of a medical education."

The 1991/92 roster of student societies cites over 30 active groups. The interests and issues represented reflect both diversity of the student body, and the enthusiasm of the undergraduates to explore, even in the first few years, areas of medicine beyond the basic curriculum. Perhaps of equal

importance, the longevity of this tradition betrays the social appeal of the societies. What better way to break from the Promethean task of one's studies than to stop in at a gathering, formal or informal, with both friends and faculty, and to pursue "that attractive aspect of student life" set into motion by Professor Hare some 100 years before.

The H.A. Hare Medical Society

While Hare mentions in his essay that student societies changed names and functions as the associated faculty and fields evolved, it is of no surprise that the oldest society of all, the one organized in his name, holds unchanged its original title and focus (Fig. 4).

On October 16, 1891, seniors of the class of 1892 met in Professor Hare's office to form a society which would be "the standard for whatever will best advance the interest of its members and promote the welfare of 'Old Jeff'." The group would be limited to 40 members of the junior and senior

classes. Students would write papers on any topic of interest which they felt to be of importance to future physicians, yet outside the basic curriculum they regularly shared. The writers would then present these papers to the group in hopes that the ordeal of public delivery (and ensuing "peer review") would be excellent practical experience, helping bookworms to better approach the future clinical demands of their calling. In lieu of such presentations, efforts would be made to obtain outside speakers, physicians, professors, and other social notables to address the group and answer questions. They agreed to meet on the second Tuesday of each month in what was to become the "society room" of the Old College on 10th and Sansom, with an informal smoker following each night's main event.

The Hare society flourished, boasting a full roster through the year of Dr. Hare's death in 1931. In the subsequent restructuring of the undergraduate curriculum, the course work of Dr. Hare's materia medica was incorporated into that of the new department of Pharmacology. Topics Hare had covered in Therapeutics were converted into a clinical program taught in the second two years by Professor Elmer H. Funk (JMC, '08) and it was Funk who took the reins of the society. Funk was an extremely popular teacher, administrator, and Hare's true successor as Sutherland M. Prevost Professor of Therapeutics. The society acknowledged their fondness for him by becoming the E.H. Funk Therapeutic Society for a brief year until Funk's death the following May. The society remained under the aegis of the Prevost Professorship within the department of Medicine and, returning to its original namesake, went forward as the H.A. Hare Medical Society under the sponsorship of Prevost Professors E. Quinn Thornton (1933), Ross V. Patterson (1934-38), and Martin E. Rehfuess (1940-49). Therapeutics was discontinued as an endowed chair in 1949, and continued as a lectureship in the department of Medicine by Dr. Rehfuess. The Hare Society remained strong despite departmental changes, and today draws sponsors from throughout the Department of Medicine.

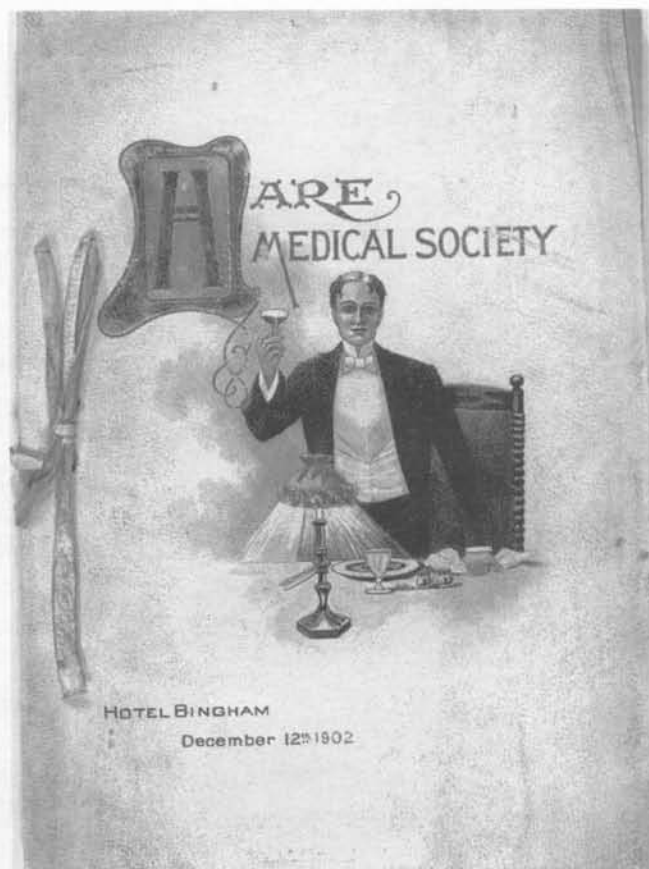


Fig. 4. Leather bound, hand painted program from the 1902 banquet of the Hare Society. The evening's speakers included student member and future Dean Ross V. Patterson (JMC, '04) who presented "Recreations of a Medical Student."

One cannot mention the Hare Society without drawing special attention to one of its most popular and devoted sponsors. Dr. Joseph Medoff (Figure 5) (JMC, '39) (Division of Gastroenterology) took charge of the society in 1961. His enthusiastic 15-year sponsorship breathed new life into the group, and with his guidance they were established as an Honor Society for the Department of Medicine. Dr. Medoff, his wife and their children, established the Philip and Bella Medoff Memorial Prize, awarded yearly to a senior member of the Hare Society in honor of Dr. Medoff's parents. In 1976, the society chose to honor Dr. Medoff himself, and with funds contributed by past and present members, faculty, and patients, they presented his portrait to the College. It hangs today in the Herbut Auditorium as a tribute to Dr. Medoff and to the continuing success of



Fig. 5. Dr. Joseph Medoff (JMC, '39) Clinical Professor of Medicine and devoted sponsor of the Hare Society (1960-76).

the society he sponsored.

While the Hare Society continues to this day, it has expanded in both size and scope. Membership now exceeds the initial 40, having expanded in the 30s to admit a rising number of interested juniors and seniors. An annual banquet is still held each Spring, with a nationally known internist as guest of honor. Like many of today's student societies, the Hare society also plays a role in helping members prepare for residency opportunities — a popular theme of interest and anxiety for most upperclass members.

In the mid 1970s, the Hare Society sponsored an event which would become one of the College's most popular annual events: the Raft Debate (Figure 6). Before a packed house, the society places an internist, an obstetrician/gynecologist, and a surgeon on the deck of a sinking ship, and asks each to convince those assembled why

he or she alone should receive the last spot in the life raft. Each in turn presents the case for survival, and in the ensuing fracas, a winner is chosen by the assembled student mob. Though no clear record remains of how and where it first took place, the Debate returns each Spring to a cheering crowd with a new and nervous roster of faculty champions.

The Surgical Societies

Not to be outdone by the internists, students of eminent surgeon and Professor W.W. Keen took less than two weeks from the first meeting of the Hare society to start a group of their own. Seniors of the class of 1892 convened on October 29, 1891, drew up a constitution, and received Keen's enthusiastic endorsement. A similar plan of meetings, smokers and banquets was established, and from the outset, the Keen society's lectures were a hit.

In 1899, student member Henry M. Labelle (JMC. 1900) recounted before the group a suspenseful tale of surgery titled "Amputation of the Thigh under Difficulties, in the Wilds of West Virginia." During the previous summer, Labelle had landed a job with an oil company in what he called "wild-cat territory". When a 10 year-old boy met with an accident destroying his leg, Labelle, though still a student, found himself the only man within forty miles with any medical knowledge. With the cook's butcher saw he amputated the child's crushed limb, using hairs from a nearby horse's tail to tie off the vessels, and the strings of a violin, soaked and softened in warm water and soap, to close the wound. The operation was a success, enabling the boy to travel the day's journey across rough country to the nearest town and hospital. Labelle's story was cheered by his fellow members, especially as he recalled how specific memories of Dr. Keen's lectures had guided him through the procedure. At the crucial moment, he claimed, he recalled Keen's maxim, that "wherever you are, in city or country, forest or mountain, you always have an antiseptic — HEAT." Labelle boiled everything, including the bandages

The Raft

Debate '88



made from strips of his polka-dot shirt, and the wound healed without infection.

Being a society of aspiring surgeons, Keen members often called upon their speakers to demonstrate new techniques. Surgeries in the amphitheaters afforded poor views of the particulars of the procedures (Figure 7), and faculty members often elaborated with detailed demonstrations before the society. On one noted occasion in January of 1901, Dr. G.W. Spencer (JMC, 1892) illustrated his talk on "Intestinal Anastomoses" by performing a procedure on a previously secured fragment of the evening's menu. With the intestine of a bullock, a Murphy button, and a Halsted rubber bag, Spencer gave those assembled a close-up tutorial on surgical technique. Needless to say, the society was extremely popular.

Originally titled the W.W. Keen Medical Society, the group sought to distinguish itself from the numerous "Medical" societies which emerged in its wake. The change to "Surgical" made clear its focus, and a full roster of forty juniors and seniors

Fig. 6. Faculty members battle for a place in the lifeboat at the Hare Society's 1988 Raft Debate. Left to right: Dr. Clara Callahan (Assistant Dean of Student Affairs), Dr. George Brainard (Neurology), Dr. Eric Hume (Orthopaedic Surgery), Dr. Edward McClay (Oncology), and Dr. George Francos (Nephrology).



Fig. 7. A 1902 cartoon showing the poor view of surgeries students had from the seats in the "pit." Groups like the W.W. Keen Society gave students an opportunity to get a closer, clearer view of the proceedings.



Fig. 8. Drs. John H. Gibbon, Jr. (JMC, '27) and John Y. Templeton III (JMC, '41) look on as Dr. Gordon W. Thomas, surgeon to the Grenfell Mission in Labrador, examines a slide shown to the Gibbon Surgical Society. Dr. Thomas spoke at the Society's 4th annual banquet, 1962.

met for many years. Banquets and smokers were kept alcohol-free in accordance with Dr. Keen's strict Baptist beliefs on temperance. Keen remained an enthusiastic sponsor of the group through the year of his death, 1932.

John Chalmers DaCosta had long been an esteemed professor of surgery (first Samuel D. Gross Professor) dearly loved by his students. Though in failing health in 1932 and unable to actively participate, the members of the student surgical society chose to honor him as their new president and namesake. They remained the J.C. DaCosta Surgical Society through his death the following year. In 1937, co-sponsor and subsequent Samuel D. Gross Professor, Thomas A. Shallow, proposed they become the Gross Surgical Society, a title they held for the next twenty-two years.

By 1959, the Department of Surgery had undergone great change. The old "A" and "B" teams had been united under eighth Chairman and third Gross Professor John H. Gibbon, Jr. Research ac-

tivities were becoming increasingly popular, and the residency program was growing in the wake of Dr. Gibbon's landmark successes with his heart-lung machine. Undergraduate interest in the Department's activities flourished, and the student surgical society became the Gibbon Society, the name it holds to date. Dr. John Y. Templeton, III, sponsored the group's activities, presiding over the continuing series of lectures and banquets (Figure 8). The Gibbon Surgical Society continues as one of the most popular student groups, fueled by both student and faculty enthusiasm, and a continuing tradition of excellent teaching surgeons.

Other Student Societies

A wide range of student societies emerged as the College entered the 20th century. Many offered little more to student members than a few dry meetings and an honorary diploma at graduation. Others rallied around annual events or awards, but seemed to do little for the remainder of the year.

The William Smith Forbes Anatomical League (Figure 9) became organized in 1893 to honor the great Jefferson professor and his achievements in winning passage of the Pennsylvania Anatomical Act. Forbes magnanimously decided to offer, through the society, a prize of \$150 from his own pocket to the student with the best second year grade in anatomy. This was a huge sum at the time, more than enough to pay for a year's tuition, and the prospect of winning kept the group alive for some time. The society's monthly meetings, nevertheless, could hardly have been exciting events. Students gave an endless parade of papers titled "Stomach", "Nose", "Tongue" and the like. Professor Forbes finally moved to end the smokers and banquets, and use the money for a second anatomy prize instead. One can only wonder how many similar groups might have welcomed such executive orders.

The enthusiasm of Dr. Ross V. Patterson (JMC, '06, Dean 1916-38) breathed life into many societies of the 20s and 30s (Figure 10). Somehow Dr. Patterson managed to find time away from his considerable administrative schedule to found and



medical practice in a community of peers and patients quite different from that of his forbears of the class of 1892.

Societies are not likely to survive on tradition alone. They mostly succeed on the basis of intellectual enhancement and social pleasure. Jefferson societies will continue to add a dimension to student life in the highest standard of the institution.

Fig. 10. This 1914 student cartoon betrays the pace of many early student presentations.

Greek – Letter Fraternities

For many years the Greek-letter Fraternities at Jefferson have had social and economic influence in the lives of the medical students. Although their importance has declined during the past two decades for reasons that will be discussed, they have had a long and interesting tradition worthy of recount.

The history of the Fraternities is nearing the century mark. The Delta Chapter of Phi Alpha Sigma was the first such organization at Jefferson in 1899 (Figs. 1 and 2). By 1912, twelve additional fraternities were added (Alpha Kappa Kappa, 1900 (Fig. 3); Nu Sigma Nu, 1900 (Fig. 4); Phi Beta Pi, 1902; Phi Chi, 1903 (Fig. 3); Phi Rho Sigma, 1904; Omega Upsilon Phi, 1908; Theta Nu Epsilon, 1909; Phi Delta Epsilon, 1911 (Fig. 4); Pi Mu, 1913; Kappa Psi, 1912; Phi Lambda Kappa, 1912; and Gamma Gamma, 1912). The membership grew so that by 1927 there were about 600 students (an average of 55) in the various Chapters. This figure did not take into account other specialized Greek-letter fraternities such as, for example, Alpha Omega Alpha honorary fraternity or the Kappa Beta Phi, a purely social fraternity that sponsored the Annual Black and Blue Ball after 1933.

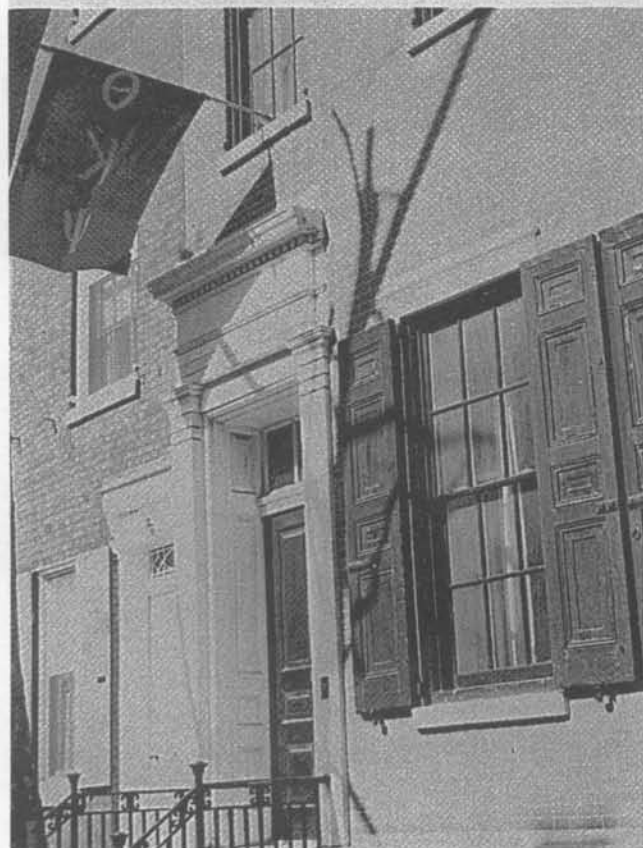
Aside from the social benefits, and to some extent scholastic advantages from cooperation in study with fellow classmates, the main provisions were for living accommodations and meals. Of the sixteen fraternities in 1927, seven had purchased their houses and the rest operated under leases. Purchases were made possible by contributions from Alumni members, by first mortgages, and by Building and Loan mortgages for the remainder. The carrying charges of the properties, consisting of interests, insurance, taxes, water rent, and Building and Loan costs were provided by initiation fees, dues, and board and room payments from the undergraduate members. Since the financial affairs were run on a not-for-profit basis, the costs of room and board were not greater than in the surrounding housing and meal facilities. The Chapter Houses were furnished and administered by the students themselves, as a rule under the supervision and advice of an Alumni Committee.

Many students who were living in quarters outside the Chapter Houses availed themselves of the fraternity dining facilities. By 1929 this arrangement included about sixty percent of the entire student body. The food was purchased and menus

Fig. 1. Members of Phi Alpha Sigma, first fraternity to be established at Jefferson (1899).



Theta Kappa Psi



Phi Alpha Sigma



Fig. 2. Theta Kappa Psi, located at 919 Clinton Street and Phi Alpha Sigma located at 313 S. Tenth Street.

arranged by one of the members who acted as Steward, frequently assisted by one or more fellow members. It was of good quality and prepared by an employed cook. Students who washed dishes or aided in other house chores such as maintenance had reduction in living costs. A House Committee was responsible for housekeeping and enforcement of rules and regulations governing the use of the Chapter House. An occasional infraction of the rules was punished by the imposition of a fine. Besides the students who obtained board and room in adjacent areas were those who resided in Philadelphia and lived at home or received these services by part-time work in hospitals or other institutions.

Fig. 3. Alpha Kappa Kappa, located at 317 S. Eleventh Street (on site of Old Philadelphia Almshouse, scene of reunion of the two Acadian sweethearts immortalized in Longfellow's *Evangeline*) and Phi Chi, located at 1025 Spruce Street.

In the autumn and early winter it was customary to have parties referred to as "Saturday-night Smokers" to which Alumni members and candidates being "rushed" were invited. At times there was even a Chapter dance, but Kappa Beta Phi took over this function with the advent of the Annual Black and Blue Ball (1933).

Weekly meetings of the officers and members were usually necessary to transact the Chapter business. Attendance was mandatory under threat of a fine for absence. More ambitious Chapters at times issued bulletins for the interest of their Alumni members.

Fraternity life flourished throughout the 1940s, 50s and early 60s, providing comfortable boarding at moderate cost, excellent campus social life, and brotherhood in studying together, "Rush week" rivalries and colorful initiation ceremonies. A steady decline in membership then set in with



Alpha Kappa Kappa



Phi Chi

survival of only six of the original fraternities (Phi Alpha Sigma, Alpha Kappa Kappa, Nu Sigma Nu, Phi Chi, Phi Delta Epsilon, and Theta Kappa Psi.)

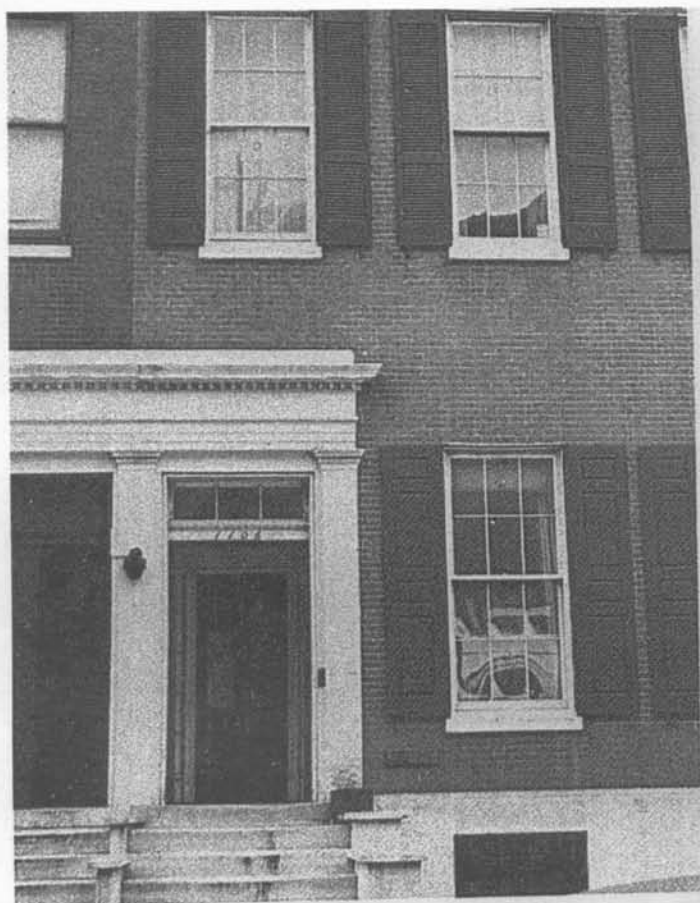
Only Phi Alpha Sigma and Nu Sigma Nu still had kitchen services. An article appeared in the *Jefferson Medical College Alumni Bulletin* (Spring, 1972, by Joy R. Mara) entitled: "Fraternities 1973: Is the Party Over?" (Fig. 5).

Reasons for decline in membership and importance of the Fraternities were understandable and inevitable. A big blow to fraternity life was dealt by the significant increase in the percentage of married students. These students could not avail themselves of the housing or dining facilities, and the social activities became irrelevant or unnecessary. Quite a few even had family responsibilities. Increased living costs and college tuition found many such students in debt and lacking funds for fraternity dues.

In more recent years, the medical school curriculum itself discouraged membership, because out-of-town assignments at affiliated institutions often involved temporary living away from campus for weeks at a time.

Construction of the Orlowitz Residence Hall (1967) dealt another severe blow to fraternity life. The accommodations there were much superior, offering 172 one-bedroom apartments, 56 two-bedroom apartments, and a number of three-bedroom apartments, plus modern amenities of security, air conditioning, facilities for children, conference rooms and private parties. This residence proved very popular, and developed waiting lists. Nine years later the Barringer Residence (1976) would add 138 apartments at reasonable cost

Fig. 4. Nu Sigma Nu, located at 1106 Spruce Street and Phi Delta Epsilon, located at 1033 Spruce Street.



Nu Sigma Nu

Phi Delta Epsilon





Fig. 5. Greek-letter Fraternities (from *Alumni Bulletin*, Spring, 1973).

to house 420 occupants, with one half of the apartments occupied by families.

The opening of the Jefferson Commons (1968) in Alumni Hall took over most of the responsibility for provision of campus social activities just as the fraternities were having financial difficulties in sponsoring their own social functions, usually at a loss. In addition, the Jefferson Alumni Hall cafeteria provided wholesome meals at reasonable prices. New low-cost restaurants also sprang up on the surrounding campus. Although there still remained those who preferred fraternity alternatives, the competition from these more modern facilities was most compelling.

"Rush", the traditional membership recruitment, became a lower key affair. An Inter Fraternity Council scheduled the events and set limits on spending. Activities such as outdoor barbecues, Band parties and informal lecture groups were still permissible. Letters were sometimes sent instead

of the regular "Rush". The remaining fraternities did stay competitive, however, with "Rush" used as an attraction.

To see what "Rush" was like in 1912, there is an anonymous article in the *Clinic* for that year which describes the activity most graphically:

"Diary Of A Freshman"

"September 25

Arrived this morning. Haven't had time to write to her yet. Went to see Patterson today. Gee, but he is a dignified cuss. Don't know why I went in to see him, anyhow. Wonder how much of that ten dollars breakage fee I'll get back. A book agent tried to sell me a pathology today, but I'll have to ask Dad first. When he went to Jefferson there weren't any Fraternities here, but college life has changed since then. Dad said to look them all over, and then join a good, studious bunch if I joined any.

"September 27

Had an awful time finding my way back to this room. All the houses look alike to me. Sophs got me today, but it wasn't half as bad as I expected. Met a fellow named Vosburg, and he took me around to the Alpha Kappa Kappa house. Those fellows made more fuss over me than anyone else has yet. Said they'd ask me to stay for dinner, only their table hasn't started yet. Wonder how they landed so many honorary members. "Tiny" seems awfully kiddish for a fellow his size. I'd like to know what nationality Turnbull is: can't understand his lingo. Streit wanted to take me out, but I didn't like to trust him. Mitchell certainly can tickle those ivories.

"September 28

The Nu Sigma Nu bunch took me around to meet Radasch today. Then we went over to their house. Didn't think fellows as old as Hughes studied medicine. Guess there aren't many Nu Sigma Nu's flunk, but you have to be a Sophomore before they will initiate you. Some big fellow with a little voice gave me a stick of chewing gum, but I handed it to Burns, who looked forsaken, and didn't seem to mix well with the rest. Strimple

told me the dirtiest joke I ever heard. Think I'd like St. Clair if I knew him better.

"September 29

The Phi Alpha Sigmas corralled me today as I was leaving lunch and took me around to their big house on Spruce Street. I like their location. "Mike" Nolan got my complete history in about two minutes. Fulton gave me some good fatherly advice. They call him "Rough Neck" because he isn't. Wonder what that H on Lowe's sweater stands for. I'll bet he's a Heller among the women. I wish Dad could have been there to hear Boord recite "Christopher Columb."

"September 30

After lecture tonight I was steered around to the Phi Rho Sigma House. One fellow they called Poffie said he had met me before. I'll swear I never saw him before. Every frat I go to they tell me the same things. Harris gave out the awfulest line of talk about concrete work, railroading, etc., etc., that I ever heard. During the conversation he fell asleep several times. Guess he must have been out on a maternity case all night. They called him Bert Williams, and tried to tease him about Eva Tanguay. "Pop" Shields gave me an awful talk on "What a Freshman ought to know." He asked if he might make a sketch of me before I left. I believe Jenson must be their inspector. He hardly said a word, but sure did look me through and through. He must have been a barber one time, as they teased him a lot about "Catsup Shampoo." I didn't think he was that kind of a fellow. I wonder what is in store for me tomorrow.

"October 1

Met all the Phi Beta Pis today. Class politics was the main topic of conversation. I think that fellow who wore the green sox and red necktie is named Spear. Thomas seemed a bit conceited. Tomlinson is a nice fellow, and Kesling has the tidiest head of hair I've ever seen. Must get his hair oil prescription. They talked a lot about how many men belonged to Phi Beta Pi - must be like belonging to the Human Race.

"October 2

The Pi Mus had me all over the city today. They don't have a house yet. Don't know why, cause

they didn't tell me. They didn't seem to like me cause they didn't loosen up much. Gaston looks like a young cherub when he smiles, and he is always smiling. "Red" had his hammer working, but no one seemed to mind him much. Hornick must be a fine fellow, but I didn't like the looks of Hammit.

"October 3

I'm beginning to get tired of this "rushing" business. Had a seance with the Phi Chis this afternoon. Ensminger is married, but otherwise he's a good scout. Guess Boring is their "heady" man. Shepp's pipe got too strong for me and I had to leave early. I know all about Puerto Rico now.

"October 4

Omega Upsilon Phi tried hard to land me this afternoon. Austin seems too lazy for a doctor. Hanson is a wide-awake boy, though. Littleton told me where to get the best high-ball in the city. Brant was still in bed, so I didn't have a chance to meet him.

"October 5

Wish I could remember all that happened last night. I met Potts and Childers in Trainer's and we proceeded to have a party. A few minutes later Jenson and Flannery came strolling in and joined us. Later on in the evening we picked up Williams and Hornick, at Brill's. A few minutes later Van Duzer and Brant joined the crowd. Someone mixed the drinks on me. Don't remember where we ended up at nor who brought me home. I have a faint recollection of pledging myself to some Fraternity, but I've lost the button and cannot recall what it looked like, and to save my soul I cannot remember who put it on me. I'm in a hell of a fix."

Another anonymous article appeared in the *Clinic* for 1923 which described a student's reaction on exposure to the various existing fraternities (Fig. 6). It deserves quotation in full.

"The Horrible Truth, Or, The Fraternities Unmasked"

"I arrived at Jefferson on April 1st, and went immediately to the Dean's office. Here I registered, and, departing from the halls of the quilted bricks,

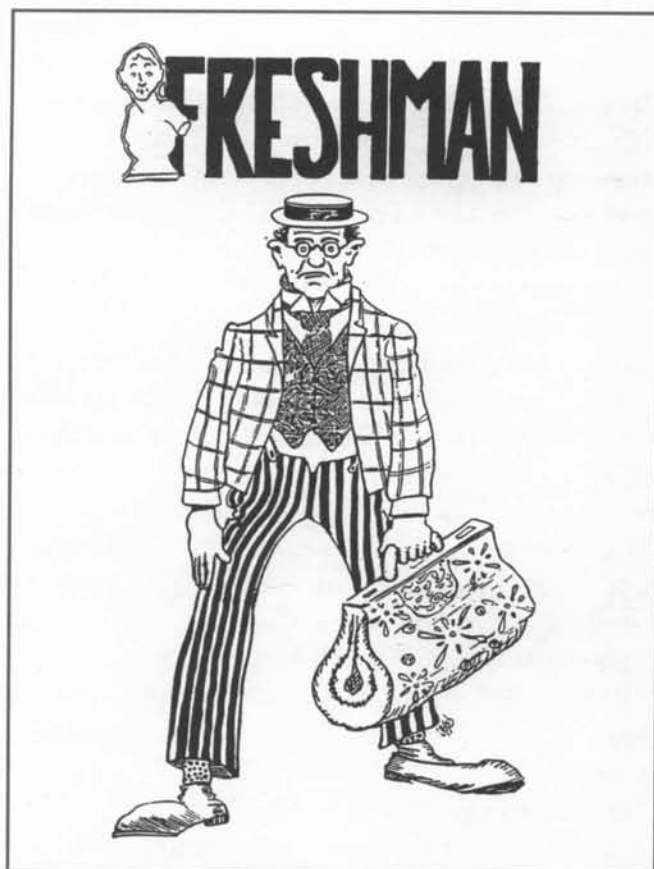


Fig. 6. Caricature of Jefferson Freshman (from *Clinic*, 1923).

I soon arrived at the Phi Alf House. This is a beautiful yearly leased structure on Pine Street. I was quickly deprived of my coat and hat at the door, and was warned to take all my valuables from my pockets, as nobody would be held responsible for things stolen. They had a band playing in the parlor, but it kindly stopped on my arrival. I received a hearty reception: There was a big picture of "our brother, the dean", all done up in a black frame. The picture was hung high up - my interpreter explained this by saying, that if it were in reaching distance somebody would steal it.

"The next hour was spent at the Phi Chi House. The Phi Chis are a fine bunch of boys and are noted for their studious habits. Instead of saying Grace, each Brother has to stand up and recite his grades. A 75 spoils the whole dinner.

"Leaving this charming company, I next wended my way to the Pie Bates. These earnest young men had an excellent medieval hostelry on Spruce

Street, very near the Jewish Cemetery. I did not stay long here, for the plumber was giving the drain system a high irrigation, and a druggist named Appleman was hearing some lessons for the boys.

"I was then conducted to the Phi Rho suite, but as I do not care much for girls, I curtailed my visit. I hope to investigate this group at a more opportune time. They promised to be very interesting from an anthropological point of view.

"The next eating-club to come under my attention was the Oh You Phi bungalow. This is a charming meal-place conducted by the Neurological Survey for Hungry Students. As the name implies, clinical material may be had at any time, by applying to the Keeper-in-charge.

"My next fancy led me to the A.K.K. House, and as it was not yet dark I ventured in. I was warmly received, and immediately exposed to a long talk somewhat like the following A.K.K. Spirit (at first I thought a drink was in order), like love, devotion, loyalty, and other of its components, is better understood in its tangible manifestations than in any abstract description. Recognizing this, several characteristic views of Fraternal Sacrifice (just plain bull). But as I did not wish to make a contribution I hurriedly left. In so far as I know, the orator is still talking, not noticing that his audience left.

"Bright and early the next morning I came upon the dug-out of the New Sigs. This group has a very excellent quartet, which insists on singing on the least provocation.

"The harmony was dreadful. I stayed to dinner there. As I left I was given a list containing the names of ten National Fraternities at Jefferson. They asked me to mention them wherever I went.

"At the Fie Delta Epsilon studio I had the mortification of pulling out the door knob, which I was advised to put back before I was arrested, and to never do it again, "Positive not." This outfit is composed of very remote grandchildren of a well-known Bible gentleman, named Jacob. At meal-time they talk very loudly, so that one cannot hear the shoes of the waiter clattering over the floor. They were somewhat resentful when they learned that I did not bring a spoon to add to their collection, representing thirty different railroads, sixteen

steamboat lines, a few national fraternities, numerous hospitals, and two quick lunches.

"It was at the Kappa Cy house that I had the most fun. As I entered the room six men were putting one of their playmates into a spittoon, head first. One of the brothers said it didn't matter, as the spittoon was only half full, and therefore not likely to spill over on the carpet. They informed me they were rather young, but "awful tough." They have a song, which can also be used as an encore. Somebody played it on the piano, but he apparently wore gloves. When they reach maturity, they are likely to be an interesting group.

"About three o'clock I arrived at the Fie Lambda Kappa asylum. They have a house which is very finely located, and which will be very pretty when built. They have a large number of men in the various Jefferson societies, a few on the Faculty, and one or two in College. They hold their chapter meetings in the College Library, and have one Mason in their club. Although secluded, this hang-out has the distinct advantage of being near the Philadelphia Orthopedic School.

"The Tau Chapter of the Chi Zeta Chi holds the record for garlic consumption. Indeed, their prodigious appetites for this member of the Lilaciae

has caused a panic on the market, and one can no longer safely prescribe this invaluable remedy. To show their abandonedness, while I was there, one of the members put some coal in the furnace. I understand, however, that this thoughtless action was severely frowned down upon at the next meeting.

"Altogether I was favorably impressed with fraternity conditions at Jefferson. They are doing excellent work. On careful inquiry at each Chapter I found that each was first in scholastic standing, and more men were elected to class officers than all the rest combined."

Although fraternities have traditionally fostered "brotherhood", the sex barrier was broken in the early 1970s by admission of women medical students to membership. Although this did not include housing, it provided access to dining and the social activities. The five remaining Greek-letter fraternities in the 90s are Alpha Kappa Kappa, Nu Sigma Nu, Phi Alpha Sigma, Phi Chi, and Phi Delta Epsilon. With the heyday past, their future has some enthusiasts and some prophets of doom. Their demise "would not go unlamented."

Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society

In 1902 William Webster Root with five other medical students at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Chicago organized the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society. Its purpose was to foster higher ideals of scholastic excellence and moral conduct. While directly promoting these lofty goals, it indirectly was protesting a common notion which associated medical students with "rowdyism, boorishness, immorality and low educational ideals."

At the turn of the century medical education in the United States was in a state of ferment and change. A decade earlier (1890) the Johns Hopkins

Hospital and Mayo Clinic had opened. Aseptic principles of surgery were becoming entrenched and rubber gloves were introduced. Early operation for appendicitis, improved herniorrhaphy, and more radical surgery for cancer were practiced. Experimental pancreatic diabetes was produced. Many psychiatric conditions were beginning to be recognized as medical, brain disorders. The scientific age of medicine was gaining momentum.

Jefferson Medical College was in the forefront of this progress. The year 1895 marked the end of proprietary status, which had pertained from its

founding in 1824, and was superseded by a full control by the Board of Trustees of the Medical College Hospital. Medical education at this institution was no longer a financial interest of the professors, tuition fees now being received directly by the administration.

Although the admission requirements did not change at this time, there were increasing numbers of matriculants possessing more than minimal qualifications, such as dentistry, pharmacy, bacca-laureate, and even M.D. degrees from other institutions. The basic high school or academy education was still acceptable as was a "Certificate from Examiners of a County Medical Society." An entrance examination was also an option.

In the 1890s there were five clinical lectureships in the evolving specialties of orthopaedic surgery, laryngology, children's diseases, dermatology, and renal diseases. Instruction was also given in the use of the laryngoscope and ophthalmoscope. In 1895 the four-year course became a requirement for the M.D. degree. The curriculum was established in detail for each of the four years and classes were divided into sections for laboratory and clinical teaching.

In 1894 the first full length bronze statue in the United States to be erected in honor of a physician was dedicated in Bryant Park, New York City, to J. Marion Sims (JMC, 1835), the "Father of Modern American Gynecology." The second was in 1897 in honor of Samuel D. Gross (JMC, 1828), the "Emperor of American Surgery of the Nineteenth Century," in Smithsonian Park, Washington, D.C..

The most physical evidence of Jefferson's progress was the opening of the New Medical College Building on October 2, 1899, at the northwest corner of Tenth and Walnut Streets. This six-story commodious structure complied with the most modern requirements of medical education from both theoretical and practical standpoints. An adjunct six-story laboratory building provided ten large laboratories for students and 17 smaller private rooms for individual research. Facilities for pharmacology, medical chemistry, toxicology, physiology, normal and pathological histology, anatomy, bacteriology, and recitations were opti-

mal. Mr. Louis C. Vanuxem, a Board member, at his own expense equipped the physiology laboratory in a manner that placed it in the first rank of such laboratories. One hundred and fifty microscopes of the most recent make as well as an electric lantern projector were also provided for student use. Demolition of the old Medical College at Tenth and Sansom streets provided space for construction of a new Main Hospital that would open in 1907.

In 1899 the students launched a publication, *The Jeffersonian*, issued monthly until 1916. In addition to recording student life and medical events it provided intimate communication between students and faculty. By 1902 there were more than a dozen student societies and other organized student activities at Jefferson. These included: the Hobart Amory Hare Medical Society, W.W. Keen Surgical, E.P. Davis Obstetrical, J.C. Wilson Medical, E.E. Montgomery Gynecological, F.X. Dercum Neurological and Psychiatric, W.M.L. Coplin Pathological, H.C. Chapman Physiological, Orville Horwitz Surgical (Urological), Ptolemy (Masonic), Forbes Anatomical League, and The Academy (comprised of students with college degrees). There was a Young Men's Christian Association, Medical College Orchestra, Football and Basketball Teams (that competed with other colleges).

It is evident from the foregoing that Jefferson Medical College was poised at that time to join the national Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society and enthusiastically became the Alpha Chapter of Pennsylvania in 1903, first of the eventual seven in this State. The AOA motto, "To be worthy to serve the suffering," was very appropriate for many activities occurring at Jefferson.

The earliest medical schools to join the Alpha Omega Alpha were: University of Illinois (Chicago) and University of Chicago in 1902; Northwestern, Case Western Reserve, Jefferson Medical College and University of Pennsylvania in 1903; Washington University in 1905; Harvard Medical School, Johns Hopkins, University of Toronto, and University of California, San Francisco in 1906; Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons; University of Michigan in 1907; and University

of Mississippi in 1908.

A short article appeared in *The Jeffersonian* for April, 1903, as follows: "Alpha Omega Alpha Honorary Fraternity is an organization which stands in the same relation to the medical college as the Phi Beta Kappa Honorary Fraternity does to the literary college. It differs from the latter, however, in its methods of election to membership. Jefferson has recently received a charter for a chapter, which will be the Alpha Chapter of Pennsylvania. This honorary fraternity does not make class standing, as to grade, the only qualification for membership, but considers the moral character of a man in its broadest sense, his conduct and deportment in college life, as well as the interest he manifests in his chosen profession. Membership in this society is conferred by the active members, who are Senior students, with the sanction of the honorary members, upon other students of the Senior and Junior classes — the latter at the end of each year — who are deemed most worthy. During each year a lecture upon some subject pertaining to medical ethics will be delivered by one of the honorary members before the student body."

Another reference to Alpha Omega Alpha in *The Jeffersonian* for January, 1908, was "This is a non-secret Medical Honor Society, membership to which is based upon scholarship, moral qualifications being satisfactory. It was organized at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Chicago, August 25th, 1902, and is the only society of its kind in medical schools on this continent. Chapters are limited to medical schools of the highest standing.

"This organization, while possessing exclusive features as regard scholarship and other high standards of membership, adds to these the definite mission to encourage high ideals of thought and action in schools of medicine and to promote that which is highest in professional practice. As students, members are to avoid that which will make them unworthy of their calling and to further the same spirit among their fellow students. As practitioners they are to maintain and encourage the lofty ideals set before them by the revered father of medicine, Hippocrates, to show respect for other

members of their calling; to advocate high requirements for entrance to the course in medicine and for graduation; in short to do what they can to exalt and to ennoble the profession. A commercial spirit and all departures from medical ethics are to be avoided, and the purely scientific, the philosophical and the poetical features of the profession are to be cultivated.

"Students are eligible as active members, subject to the following conditions:

- (a) Scholarship
- (b) Strength of character, individuality and originality.
- (c) Moral character in the broadest sense, including: unselfishness, respect for one's self and for others, combined with lofty ideals.

"Scholarship is considered the most important qualification for election, but no man, however brilliant in scholarship, is eligible if he does not conform to the requirements above set forth."

"The insignia of the Fraternity is in the form of a key, made of gold, and worn as a watch charm. It is designed after the manubrium sterni. On the obverse side are the three Greek letters and the date of the organization. On the reverse side, the name of the school, the name of the member owning the key, and the date of his election."

Since Jefferson Medical College did not admit its first women students until 1961, it can be understood that the articles quoted above referred only to men students. At least one third or more of the students at Jefferson are now women who win more than their mathematical proportion of prizes at graduation and many have become members of Alpha Omega Alpha.

Willis Fastnacht Manges in the Class of 1903 was the first member of Alpha Omega Alpha at Jefferson. He immediately became involved in the new science of radiology and as a pioneer in this field he ultimately was elected President of the American Roentgen Ray Society and became the first Chairman of Radiology at Jefferson. His two sons, Willis Edmund (JMC, '42) and W. Bosley (JMC, S'44) were members of Alpha Omega Alpha at Jefferson, and the latter was President during his senior year.



Fig. 1. AOA Banquet, March, 1966, in Mirror Room of Barclay Hotel. Harvey J. Sugarman (President), John H. Hodges (Faculty Advisor) and J. Parsons Schaeffer (former Advisor) seated left to right.

Fig. 2. AOA Banquet, March, 1966, in Barclay Hotel. E. Harold Hinman, Ph.D., M.D., Nicholas A. Michels, D.Sc., Baldwin L. Keys, M.D., two students, Benjamin F. Haskell, M.D., Thaddeus L. Montgomery, M.D. and student seated left to right around table.



A list of the Honorary Faculty Members appears in the *Clinic Yearbook* for 1923. The names are all outstanding in the history of Jefferson and exemplify the distinction of being so honored. They are William W. Keen, James C. Wilson, E.E. Montgomery, W.M.L. Coplin, R.V. Patterson, E.P. Davis, Hobart A. Hare, F.X. Dercum, J. Chalmers DaCosta, Thomas McCrae, and J. Parsons Schaeffer.

As of 1988 there were 124 AOA chapters in 127 accredited medical schools. The missing chapters were Harvard, Stanford and McGill. In the 1980s a number of students from these schools took the position that AOA was an "elitist" organization, and ostensibly for that reason did not wish to maintain their chapters. In a consecutive five-year period each of these schools failed to elect students to membership which, according to a statute of the society, required an automatic revocation of the chapter charter. This sad action had to be taken in 1990, despite a more positive point of view by many faculty and alumni AOA members of these

schools. According to Robert J. Glaser, M.D., National AOA Executive Director and himself an AOA graduate of Harvard Medical School and a former Dean of the Stanford Medical School, "it is paradoxical that students who take a negative position about AOA seem not to take the same position about Phi Beta Kappa even though Phi Beta Kappa and Alpha Omega Alpha are clearly comparable in terms of the values for which they stand." It is hoped that at a later date the students then in these schools will have a change of heart and take steps to reactivate their chapters.

The Faculty Advisors for the Jefferson Chapter have served for varying numbers of years and the exact tenure of each is not recorded. Their order of succession however, has been as follows: William M.L. Coplin, J. Parsons Schaeffer, Thomas A. Shallow, Kenneth E. Fry, John H. Hodges and Frederick B. Wagner, Jr. (Co-Advisors), Gonzalo E. Aponte, Warren R. Lang, Bruce Jarrell, and Troy L. Thompson, II, since 1990. These advisors, in addition to creating enthusiasm among the members, encourage the support of other faculty and honorary members, and provide support to the AOA students in their many services and other AOA projects, including obtaining certificates and keys and arranging for the annual AOA banquets (Figs. 1 and 2).

Recently elected Alpha Omega Alpha members at Jefferson have been actively engaged in aiding their fellow students and the institution and community as a whole. Some of the various projects include: clinical workshops, journal club, first and second year tutoring, high school teaching (preventive health), a big brother/sister program, residency program interviews, guidelines, literature discussion group, AOA/Hare lecture sponsorship, clinical years manual, research committee for placing first and second year students in laboratory positions, pre-med counseling, aiding in introduction to clinical medicine, physical diagnosis, carolling on the pediatric floor, 2nd/3rd year scheduling, Anatomy laboratory aid, clinical correlation in reading of radiographs, and introduction to clinical medicine case presentations.

Through the years the lofty standards of this organization have never faltered at Jefferson. While every member is not expected to achieve the pinnacle of clinical and academic success, the pursuit of medical excellence and practice of highest ethical standards should continue throughout life. Election to membership should not engender arrogance and feelings of superiority, but humble one to the challenge of being "worthy to serve the suffering."

The Black and Blue Ball: Kappa Beta Phi and Student Aid

The Kappa Beta Phi Fraternity was organized in 1924 in order to bring the medical students together socially, to widen their circle of friends, and to ease their intensity of study. Members were selected from the upper two classes, with each fraternity providing an equal but limited number of participants, and the non-fraternity group adding to the total, to form a democratic cross section of the student body. Dean Ross V. Patterson agreed to be the sponsor.

Parties and sporadic get-togethers took place until 1933, at which time the first formal Annual

Black and Blue Ball was held at the Penn Athletic Club. This was at the height of the "Great Depression," when President Franklin D. Roosevelt temporarily closed all the banks in the country. The Dance was named after the school colors, with Eli R. Saleeby (JMC, '22), a member of the surgical staff, as sponsor. Dr. Saleeby (Fig. 1) assumed this role for the next 29 years, until he relinquished the responsibility in 1962. Following the death of Dean Patterson in 1938 he became the "Grand Swipe" of Kappa Beta Phi and continued as the sponsor to motivate the hard work and energy of the various



Fig. 1. Eli R. Saleeby (JMC, '22) the "Grand Swipe" sponsored Black and Blue Balls from 1933 to 1962.

committees, aided by support of the student body, the faculty and alumni to make each yearly dance a social and financial success. During the years of 1933 to 1962, Dr. Saleeby was the only one who attended every Black and Blue Ball. He married late in life and in those later years, of course, took his attractive wife to the affairs. His son, Eli R. Saleeby, Jr., graduated from Jefferson in 1981, and as a student was very active in planning the Balls.

In 1940, with the approval of the College and Board of Trustees, the Student Aid Fund was established. Accumulated profits from the Balls were applied to aid needy and worthy students as the Kappa Beta Phi Loan Fund. Although the yearly proceeds ranged between a modest \$2,000 and \$3,000, it turned out that between 1982 and 1991 the Fund has provided over \$120,000 in loans to third and fourth year medical students. The number of junior students aided each year has varied from one to 19 and the senior students from one to 16. While the major contribution of funds for aid comes from other sources, Jefferson students possibly represent the only medical college in which the students themselves contribute to financial

support for their needy classmates. The first check to the Dean was submitted in 1949, and by 1956 the Fund was able to aid several students.

A law in the United States to prohibit the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages was passed in 1919 and implemented in 1920. The medical students reacted by organizing the Kappa Beta Phi Fraternity as a secret drinking society. Following the repeal of Prohibition in 1933, the society came above ground and sponsored the first Annual Black and Blue Ball. For more than two decades the event was one of drinking and dancing. Food was consumed either before or after the Ball, or both. It was customary for many of the attendees to bring hard liquor, and most of the tables would contain at least half a dozen bottles. Figure 2 shows such a table in 1947 at which the author participated. Alcohol became legal after the first Ball, and was welcomed for the occasion. It became rationed during the latter part of World War II, but this did not hinder the seemingly ample supply during these years. There were fewer automobiles and no national conscience about "driving under the influence." Mildly stated, the drinking was excessive, with a few students "passing out," with an occasional exchange of fisticuffs, and a few of the most respected professors looking pale and dazed after having extra drinks forced upon them by well meaning students. Dr. Saleeby always remained a model of sobriety, in spite of having been designated the "Grand Swipe" in 1938. Although the word "swipe" has various definitions, the one applicable in this context is "To drink a mug of liquor in one draft." As might be expected, Dr. Saleeby's exemplary conduct failed to prevent the occasional acts of rowdyism.

All this extra-spirited conduct gradually quieted down through the passing years as the bringing of alcohol was banned, as the faculty boycotted the affair for five years, and especially when "cocktails and dancing" was changed to the sedate activity of "dinner and dancing."

In 1960, Mr. Percival Foerderer, Chairman of the Board of Trustees (1950-62), was made an honoree at the Black and Blue Ball (Fig. 3). In 1967, Dr. Peter A. Herbut, President of the Medical College,



was the next to be made a Guest of Honor at the Ball. The following year Dean William F. Kellow received the same honor, which became a yearly custom. The author was made an honoree in 1981 (Fig. 4), the year in which Eli Saleeby, Jr. graduated. The custom of having a guest of honor from the faculty or administration, the change from cocktail to dinner dance, the continuation of support to the Student Aid Fund, and the decorous conduct of students have together established the Dance as equal to the finest among the medical colleges in the country.

A commemorative ash tray was issued in 1958 to mark the 25th anniversary of the Ball (Fig. 5). After 60 years (1933-93), the Annual Black and Blue Ball has evolved into an undergraduate student-sponsored social affair of which the Medical College may well be proud (Fig. 6). Since 1962, solely under the aegis of the students themselves, they have uniformly been an unqualified success. Older alumni will recall the dedicated sponsorship of Dr. Saleeby for nearly three decades. This legendary alumnus died in 1967 at the age of 66. His name will always remain associated with the history of the Black and Blue Ball.

Fig. 2. Table at Black and Blue Ball (1947). Left to right: Ann Lois Davis (R.N., '43), Donald Watkins (JMC, '47), Emily Gerfin (R.N., '44), Clarence Hewitt (JMC, '44), Jean Lockwood Wagner (R.N., '41), Frederick Wagner, Jr. (JMC, '41), Ruth Kiefman Giletto (R.N., '41), and Basil Giletto (JMC, '37).



Fig. 3. Mr. Percival Foerderer, Chairman of Board of Trustees, an honoree in 1960.

Fig. 4. Plaque honoring Frederick B. Wagner, Jr. (JMC, '41) at 1981 Black and Blue Ball.

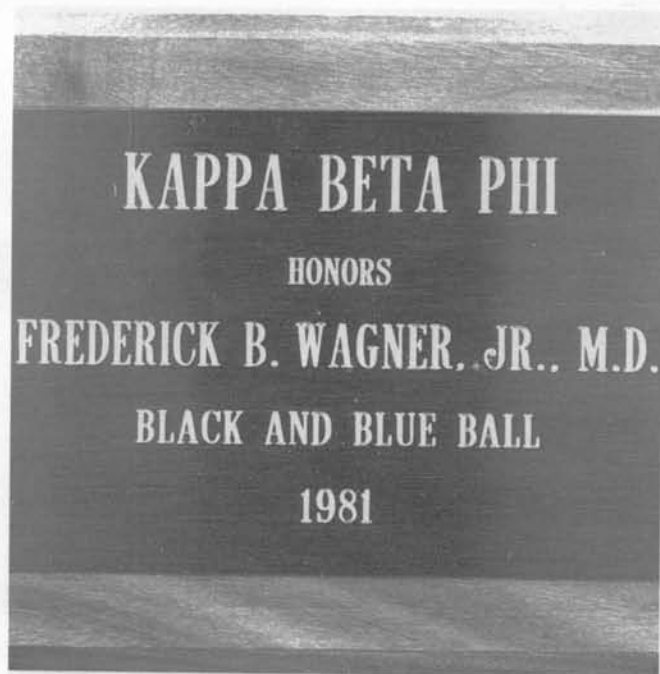


Fig. 5. Commemorative ash tray for 25th anniversary of the Black and Blue Ball.



Fig. 6. Dancing at Black and Blue Ball (1947).

Aleph Yod He Hebrew Fraternity

The Aleph Yod He Fraternity, first organized in 1909 at the University of Pennsylvania, established a Gimel Chapter at Jefferson in 1911 (Fig. 1). It was unique in being the only Hebrew Lettered Fraternity in the world.

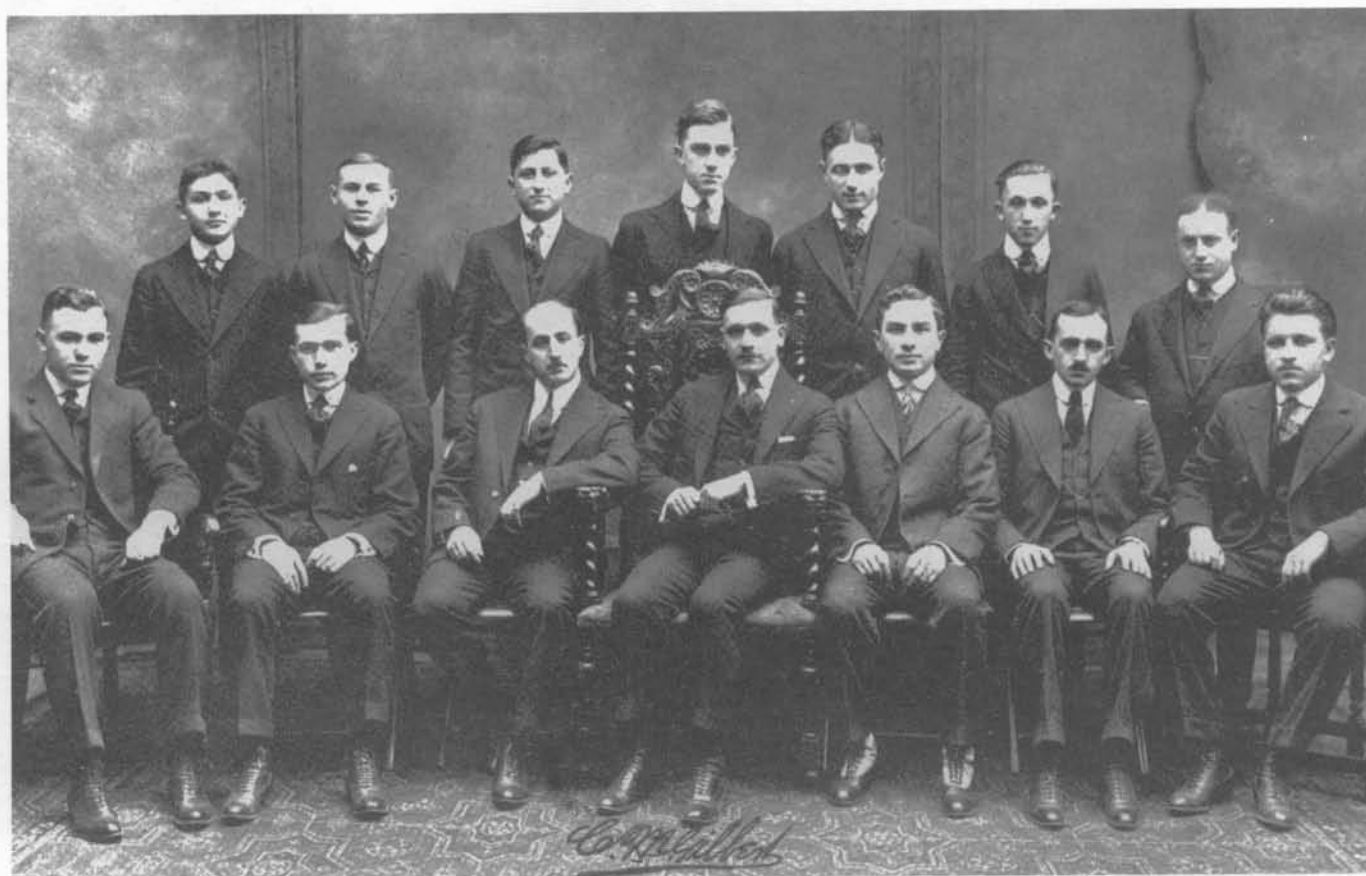
The purpose was for Hebrew students of medical colleges to be in closer contact and, if necessary, to be of aid to one another. It was an International Fraternity with chapters in Europe. In 1915 it affiliated with the Zeta Mu Phi Fraternity which had ten chapters in the western part of the United States.

A prominent member of this fraternity was Dr. Simon Flexner, Head of the Rockefeller Institute in New York. An outstanding faculty member at

Jefferson was Jay F. Schamberg, Chairman of Dermatology (1918-20). In addition to writing two textbooks of Dermatology, his Research Laboratories in 1917 synthesized arsphenamine and neoarsphenamine for the treatment of syphilis. This freed America from dependence on Germany for supplies of this drug.

This fraternity ceased to exist at Jefferson after 1920. Two Greek-letter Fraternities, Phi Delta Epsilon (inaugurated, 1911) and Phi Lambda Kappa (inaugurated, 1912) served mainly Jewish students.

Fig. 1. Members of Aleph Yod He Fraternity (from *Clinic*, 1916).





William Osler, right (Professor of Medicine, Johns Hopkins Medical School) with James C. Wilson (Professor of Medicine, Jefferson Medical College) at a meeting of the J.C. Wilson Medical Society at Jefferson in 1895.